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European Union

Sugar

EU extends ban on duty free Serbian sugar imports 2004

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Report Highlights:

As expected, the European Commission extended the suspension for sugar exports from Serbia to the EU for a further six months, arguing that Serbian controls on proof of origin of sugar continue to be inadequate.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E2]

Suspension of Serbian zero duty access for sugar to EU markets extended

The European Commission have published a Regulation suspending for a further six months the right of Serbian operators to export (Serbian origin) sugar to the EU free of duties, as predicted in GAIN Report E24014 (see link below).

According to reports, investigations by OLAF (the European Union's anti-fraud branch) found systematic attempts to provide fake documentation to pass third country sugar off as of being of Serbian origin, thus being able to be exported to the EU duty free. The [Commission Regulation extending the current ban](#) maintains that Serbian authorities are still unable to provide sufficient proof of evidence of a product's origin.

Background

The countries of the Western Balkans (Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Albania) benefit from zero duty unlimited access to the EU for domestically produced goods with only a couple of minor exceptions. However, Serbian access to zero duty sugar tariffs to the EU was suspended last year on, according to the European Commission, grounds of fraud. Traces of cane sugar were reported to have been found in Serbian origin sugar exported to the EU. Serbia does grow not sugar cane.

The current six month suspension is due to expire in February, however,

In a formal '[Notice to Importers](#)' published in the EU's Official Journal, the European Commission in January 2004, it warns importers that Serbian controls to verify the origins of Serbian sugar are still considered inadequate to prevent fraud.

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Related reports from USEU Brussels:

Report No.	Title	Date Released
E24014	EU Accession: 'Excess' sugar stocks to be taxed	1/23/2004
E23237	ACP Countries Weigh in on EU Sugar Reform	12/10/2003
E23220	LDC's Prefer Fixed Quotas	11/20/2003
E23194	Sugar semi-annual	10/15/2003
E23181	EU Commission Proposes Reforms for Sugar, Cotton, Olive Oil and Tobacco	9/24/2003
E23066	EU suspends Serbia's tariff free access for sugar	5/2/2003

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